

## OFFICE MACHINE WORKTABLE CONSTRUCTION

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

#### 1. FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates in general to the construction of office tables and in particular to a new and useful worktable particularly for data processing systems having electronic keyboards and mechanical and/or electrical parts of the system which are arranged separate from one another.

#### 2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIOR ART

It is known to arrange the table top of typewriter tables so that it can be adjusted to the particular height preferred by the respective operator for the operation of the typewriter keyboard. For such constructions the table top is provided with an adjustable portion or support which is suspended on so-called gas springs to provide an adjustable support at relatively low cost. Such arrangements cannot be used for data processing systems which are frequently equipped with box-shaped table tops and which include a plurality of mechanical and electrical units of the system which are separately arranged. The adjustability of such a large and heavy area tables is not feasible because the parts are too heavy and must be secured on the underframe with greater stability. For office machine tables for data processing systems including those having keyboards which are connected with the various units, not mechanically but only by electrical connections, there is no adjustability in height for the table tops and also for the operating keyboards.

Computers or data processing systems which require the manual input of numerical or alpha-numerical symbols as well as for the input of work commands, are usually equipped with several keyboards, namely an alpha-keyboard, a numerical keyboard and one or more command keyboards. In the known computer or data processing systems these keyboards are usually located at equal levels, side by side, in an inclined front portion of the table top. The table top also accommodates the printing unit and other mechanical or electrical partial units of the computer or the data processing system. The alpha keyboard is located directly in front of the printer, while the numerical keyboard as well as the command keyboard are located to the right of the alpha keyboard. In order to make it easy for the operator to feed the data into the various keyboards in order to handle the records, e.g. the vouchers from which the data must be read and put in, there is provided usually to the left of the alpha keyboard, a recorder holder in the form of a slanting board. In general, the feed of numerical values into the numerical keyboard is usually done with the operator's right arm outstretched, and it has been found in practice that the difference between the record holder to the left of the alpha keyboard and the numerical keyboard as well as the command keyboard still farther to the right is too great. Working at such a table is therefore very strenuous and leads to considerable fatigue and muscle cramp after a relatively short working period. It has already been proposed that this deficiency can be remedied by arranging the record holder so that it is displaceable in order to be able to bring the keyboards farther removed from it closer up. This, however, involves the disadvantage that the alpha keyboard is at least partly covered by the record holder.

A further disadvantage of the known keyboard arrangement is that the alpha keyboard and the other keyboards are normally operated with one hand and with the arm in a stretched position and they are all arranged at the same level, which is an incorrect arrangement from the viewpoint of work hygiene. The operation of the alpha keyboard, as is known, usually occurs with the lower arm bent and therefore it should be arranged at a lower height than the other keyboards operated with one hand with the arm stretched.

### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with the invention there is provided an office machine table, in particular for data processing systems having electronic keyboards, where it is possible to adjust the keyboards of the data processing systems to the position of the individual keyboards which are most favorable for the operator in accordance with standard work hygiene arrangements and also in accordance with the worker's operating techniques and, without requiring any excessive energy cost and without impairing the necessary stability of the table top and the respective construction thereof. In accordance with the invention the front of the mounting table for the data processing systems includes a console or support bracket which is adjustable in height and which is adapted to carry one or more keyboards. With such an arrangement the entire table does not have to be mounted for vertical movement but only the much lighter console carrying the keyboards is adjustable to this desired height. Since the keyboards are in connection with the other units of the data processing system which are secured on the table top, the adjustable mounting of the console is such that the connecting electrical cables are easily accommodated for vertical adjustable movement.

In accordance with a further feature of the invention the console is formed of a box-shaped configuration with a cover which is advantageously inclined downwardly towards the front and which carries the keyboards which are to be adjusted in height. Construction permits a favorable arrangement and interconnection of the keyboards which are carried on the inclined cover by wiring which extends through the console and is connected under the table to various elements supported on the table. This means that all of the parts of the keyboard, in particular the electrical junctions and electronic components, can be accommodated in a protected location within the console and within the table.

The mounting construction includes a support on the table for spaced vertically extending guide members or columns which form a rack which is engaged by a rotatable gear carried on the console. The gear is rotatably supported on an upright member on the console which is secured by straps which engage around the vertical rack support so that there is easy vertical guiding movement for the console portion. Means are also provided for locking the console at a selected elevation which includes a member having a tooth which is engageable with the rotatable gear on the console table to prevent its rotation and thus lock the table at an adjusted height. The locking means may be usually disengaged by contacting an unlocking lever to permit the vertical adjustment of the console in respect to the associated table. Particularly advantageous in the structural simplicity, the good guiding stability, and the small space